

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were considered by the Examiner. Claims 1-22 stand rejected by the Examiner. Claims 1-22 have been cancelled. Claims 23-30 have been added. Therefore, claims 23-30 are pending.

New Claims

New Claim 23 reads as follows:

23. (new) A computer implemented method for managing inventory of a disk rental system comprising:
- generating a user queue data structure comprising:
 - a list of ordered disk identifiers associated with user selected disks; and
 - a status identifier for each disk identifier, the status identifiers including a checked out status, available status, and unavailable status;
 - maintaining a database of user queue data structures corresponding to a plurality of users;
 - generating an optimized purchase price for a disk identifier with a checked out status comprising searching the database of user queue data structures to identify the frequency of appearance of the disk identifier in all user queue data structures; and
 - storing the optimized purchase price in the user queue data structure and displaying the optimized purchase price to the user.

Claim 23 teaches a method for managing inventory of a disk rental system. The method includes generating a user queue data structure of ordered disk identifiers associated with user selected disks. The queue includes a checked out status corresponding to disks in transit or in the user's possession. The method encourages the sale of disks with a checked out status by generating an optimized purchase price for a disk identifier with a checked out status. The optimized purchase price is generated in part by searching the database of user queue data

structures to identify the frequency of appearance of the disk identifier in all user queue data structures.

Ergo, Hastings, and the prior art made of record and not relied upon do not teach or suggest a method for managing inventory in which user queue data structures are generated and a database of user queue data structures are maintained to generate optimized purchase prices for rented items with a checked out status.

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 23.

New Claims 24-28:

Claims 24-28 are dependent on claim 23. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24-28 are patentable over Ergo, Hastings, and the prior art made of record and not relied upon at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 23.

New Claim 29 reads as follows:

29. (new) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for managing inventory of a web-based disk rental system comprising, comprising:

generating a user queue data structure comprising:

a list of ordered disk identifiers associated with user selected disks; and
a status identifier for each disk identifier, the status identifiers including a checked out status, available status, and unavailable status;

maintaining a database of user queue data structures corresponding to a plurality of users;

generating an optimized purchase price for a disk identifier with a checked out status comprising searching the database of user queue data structures to identify the frequency of appearance of the disk identifier in all user queue data structures; and

storing the optimized purchase price in the user queue data structure and displaying the optimized purchase price to the user.

Claim 29 teaches a computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for managing inventory of a disk rental system. The method includes generating a user queue data structure of ordered disk identifiers associated with user selected disks. The queue includes a checked out status corresponding to disks in the user's possession. The method encourages the sale of disks with a checked out status by generating an optimized purchase price for a disk identifier with a checked out status. The optimized purchase price is generated in part by searching the database of user queue data structures to identify the frequency of appearance of the disk identifier in all user queue data structures.

Ergo, Hastings, and the prior art made of record and not relied upon do not teach or suggest a computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for managing inventory in which user queue data structures are generated and a database of user queue data structures are maintained to generate optimized purchase prices for rented items with a checked out status.

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 29.

New Claim 30:

Claim 30 is dependent on claim 29. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 29 is patentable over Ergo, Hastings, and the prior art made of record and not relied upon at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 29.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 19, 2005

By: _____

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steven C. Lee", is written over a horizontal line.